



Silk Road Armenia LLC

sales manager

Silk Road Armenia LLC

+37491261333

[info@silkroadarmenia.am](mailto:info@silkroadarmenia.am)

<https://silkroadarmenia.am/>



## Easter in Armenia 2025

Easter is the celebration of Resurrection of Christ. Christ rose from the dead, by means of His Death He destroyed Death and granted eternal life. In Armenian the word Easter is translated as “Zatik” and means “being separated from sin”. On the day of the Easter feast Armenians dye eggs red as a symbol of fruitful life, salvation and joy. Dyeing eggs red symbolizes the salvation of the world by means of Blood of Christ. In Armenia people may have some fun as well. People usually fight their eggs to see whose egg is stronger and they may even bet on this. On Easter day the faithful welcome each other on the occasion of the Glorious Resurrection of Christ conveying the great tidings: “Christ is Risen from the dead” and receive the answer: “Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ.”

### Why Armenia for Easter?

The world’s oldest Christian country celebrates this holiday with greatest joy, happiness and faith as the testimony of belief, hope, and love of this old nation. Here only in the world you can celebrate it with warm family atmosphere, kind people and see the unique traditions for this holiday, as well as taste the nation’s meals and dishes served only during Easter.

## Trip Summary

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### Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport.

Transfer to the hotel

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### Day 2: Yerevan / City tour /

Breakfast

Yerevan City Tour

Foot Washing and Lights Out Ceremony

Dinner at the local restaurant

Overnight in Yerevan

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### Day 3: Yerevan - Haghartsin - Dilijan - Sevan - Yerevan

Good Friday

Breakfast

Haghartsin Monastery

Dilijan

Lunch and Easter Egg Dyeing

Sevan

Return to Yerevan

Overnight in Yerevan

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### Day 4: Yerevan - Khor Virap - Noravank - Areni - Yerevan

Holy Saturday

Breakfast

Khor Virap

Noravank

Areni

Areni Cave

Momik Winery

Lunch: Traditional Armenian Easter Meal

Return to Yerevan

St. Zoravor Church

Overnight in Yerevan

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### Day 5: Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvartnots - Yerevan

Resurrection Sunday

Breakfast

Ejmiatsin Cathedral - Zvartnots Cathedral

Lunch

Return to Yerevan

Vernissage

Overnight in Yerevan

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## **Day 6: Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan**

Breakfast

Garni Temple

Geghard Monastery

Lunch at the House of Abelyan

Return to Yerevan

Overnight in Yerevan

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## **Day 7: Departure**

Breakfast

Departure

Transfer to the airport

## Day 1: Arrival



**Arrival at Zvartnots International Airport.**



**Transfer to the hotel**

## Day 2: Yerevan / City tour /



The denomination of Holy Thursday in almost all Christian denominations indicates the Thursday preceding Easter Sunday.



**Breakfast**



### Yerevan City Tour

We will begin our tour with the capital of Armenia: **Yerevan**. For centuries, this city has been known as the “**pink city**” due to the color of the volcanic tuff stone used in its construction. Yerevan is one of the world’s oldest continuously inhabited cities, founded in 782 BC, and its streets are filled with history, culture, and vibrant energy.

During our tour, we will explore some of the city’s most iconic landmarks:

- **Republic Square** – The heart of Yerevan, surrounded by government buildings and the History Museum. At night, the square comes alive with its famous dancing fountains.
- **Mashtots Avenue** – Named after **Mesrop Mashtots**, the creator of the Armenian alphabet, this central avenue is lined with shops, cafes, and cultural institutions.
- **Aram Khachaturian Opera and Ballet Theatre** – This grand structure, named after the famous Armenian composer, is a cultural hub for opera, ballet, and concerts in Yerevan.
- **Cascade Complex** – A massive staircase that connects the downtown area with the Monument neighborhood, offering stunning views of the city and **Mount Ararat**. The Cascade is also home to the **Cafesjian Center for the Arts**, featuring modern sculptures and art exhibitions.
- **Mother Armenia** – A towering statue that symbolizes peace and strength, offering a panoramic view of Yerevan. Located in **Victory Park**, the statue serves as a reminder of Armenia's resilience.

Throughout the tour, we will also have the chance to explore **local markets, parks**, and enjoy the city's lively cafe culture. Yerevan blends the old and the new, offering visitors a unique glimpse into Armenia's rich past and vibrant present.



### Foot Washing and Lights Out Ceremony

In the Armenian Apostolic Church, we will witness the impressive foot washing ceremony, where clergy wash the feet of men or young boys as an expression of Christian humility. In the evening, we will also attend the “extinction of the lights” ceremony.



**Dinner at the local restaurant**



**Overnight in Yerevan**

## Day 3: Yerevan - Haghartsin - Dilijan - Sevan - Yerevan



### Good Friday

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter in the Christian calendar. On this day, Christians commemorate the passion and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This anniversary is observed with special practices and rites by the faithful of many Christian denominations.



### Breakfast



### Haghartsin Monastery

Visit the monastery of Haghartsin, which is a prominent structure of Medieval Armenian Architecture.



### Dilijan

Then we will drive to Dilijan. Walking along the Shramberyan Street we will come across with many museums, souvenirs' markets, small shops and so on. We will also observe two traditional houses built of wood, with tiled roofs and balconies with meticulously carved being typical examples of Dilijan.



### Lunch and Easter Egg Dyeing

At a local house, we will meet Amalya Hakhverdyan, who has founded and developed her own small business in Dilijan. We will participate in a cooking master class where we will dye Easter eggs. Dyeing Easter eggs is a popular tradition in many cultures and can be a fun and creative activity, producing beautiful and colorful decorations for the Easter holiday.



### Sevan

We will drive to Lake Sevan, one of the largest freshwater high-altitude lakes in the world, often referred to as the "Pearl of Armenia." The lake stands out with its sweet and astonishingly blue water, reflecting the surrounding mountain landscapes. Situated at an altitude of about 1,900 meters (6,200 feet) above sea level, it is a vital ecological and cultural landmark for Armenia. Visitors can enjoy the breathtaking scenery and serene ambiance, making it a perfect spot for relaxation and photography. Next, we will visit Sevanavank Monastery, a historic complex located on the Sevan Peninsula. Originally, the peninsula was an island, but due to a decrease in the water level of the lake, it has transformed into a peninsula.



### Return to Yerevan



### Overnight in Yerevan

## Day 4: Yerevan - Khor Virap - Noravank - Areni - Yerevan



### Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is the liturgical day in which the Christian worship celebrates the Lord Jesus Christ in the mystery of his descent into Hell. On Holy Saturday, Armenian churches fill with faithful for Vespers and participation in the annual Vigil. During the vigil, fire is blessed and the Paschal candle, symbolizing the light of Christ, is lit. The Paschal vigil lasts throughout the night. Fire, as a fundamental symbol in Christian liturgy, is the supreme expression of the triumph of light over darkness, warmth over cold, and life over death.



### Breakfast



### Khor Virap

Take trip to Khor Virap Monastery (4-18th cc.). This monastery is very prominent because of its history; Gregory the Illuminator, who introduced Christianity to Armenia, has been imprisoned there about 13 years as at that time there was a prison in the place of the monastery. Here we can enjoy the spectacular view of the sacred Ararat Mountain - an immortal symbol of Armenia.

### Noravank



We will continue our tour to Noravank - a monastery of XII century situated among amazing sheer rocks on the bench of a twisty gorge. This is the only monastery where we may find a unique sculpture of Father God.



### Areni

On our way back we will visit village Areni which is considered to be an important center of wine production industry. You are welcome to taste local wines.



### Areni Cave

Continue the tour to Areni Village and Areni Cave. The cave consists of 3 rooms, most of which are not yet explored. During the studies of the cave, metal knives, fruit seeds, grain residues, rope, pottery, clothing, grapes and dried plums attributed to the years 4200-3500 BC were found. The oldest leather shoe in the world (which is more than 5500 years old) was found here. Here has been found the cellar which is considered to be the oldest cellar in the world (dating back over 6000 years ago).



### Momik Winery

Visit MOMIK Winery where we will tour the vineyards to learn about wine-making technology. We will taste 3 types of high-quality wines (red, white, and rosé) accompanied by a variety of meats and cheeses, bruschetta, lemon, olives, summer salad, local bread of various types, seasonal fruits and nuts, main dishes, and water. We will also participate in a master class on carving Khachkars (cross-stones).



### Lunch: Traditional Armenian Easter Meal



### Return to Yerevan



### St. Zoravor Church

St. Zoravor Church is an Armenian Apostolic church located in the central part of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. The church is dedicated to Saint Gregory the Illuminator, commonly known as St. Zoravor in Armenian tradition. The church is characterized by traditional Armenian ecclesiastical architecture, featuring a distinctive dome and cross design.

The St. Zoravor Church in Yerevan is not only a place of worship but also holds historical and cultural significance. It serves as a site for religious ceremonies and events within the Armenian Apostolic Church. The surrounding area often provides a peaceful space for reflection and prayer.



### Overnight in Yerevan

## Day 5: Yerevan - Ejmiatsin - Zvartnots - Yerevan



### Resurrection Sunday

Easter is the main celebration of Christianity. It recalls the resurrection of Jesus, which took place on the third day after his death on the cross, as stated in the Gospels.



### Breakfast



### Ejmiatsin Cathedral - Zvartnots Cathedral

We will start our excursion to the centuries-old monuments of **Ejmiatsin** and **Zvartnots**, both of which are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- **Cathedral of Ejmiatsin:** Founded in 303 AD, the Cathedral of Ejmiatsin is the official residence of the **Catholicos of Armenia** and holds great significance as the spiritual heart of the Armenian Apostolic Church. This ancient cathedral is not only a place of worship but also a symbol of Armenian identity and faith. Its rich history and architectural beauty attract pilgrims and visitors from around the world.

- **Zvartnots Temple:** After our visit to Ejmiatsin, we will continue our trip to **Zvartnots Temple**, constructed in the 7th century by **Nerses the Builder**. Although only ruins remain today, the site is steeped in history and still holds an air of mystery and grandeur. Once a magnificent architectural marvel, Zvartnots was known for its unique design, featuring a circular structure with an impressive dome. As we explore the ruins, we will delve into the temple's historical significance and the reasons for its eventual abandonment.

Both sites provide a deep insight into the rich religious heritage of Armenia and reflect the architectural brilliance of their time. As we visit these sacred places, we will appreciate their lasting impact on Armenian culture and spirituality.



### Lunch

Lunch at the local house, where with the owner of the house, you can prepare another typical cake for the Easter table, "Gata."



### Return to Yerevan



### Vernissage

Visit Vernissage; a vibrant open-air market and cultural phenomenon located in the heart of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. Vernissage gathers local artists, craftsmen, and vendors who display and sell a diverse array of handmade crafts, traditional Armenian art, souvenirs, jewelry, carpets, ceramics, and other unique items.



### Overnight in Yerevan

## Day 6: Yerevan - Garni - Geghard - Yerevan



### Breakfast



### Garni Temple

Take a trip to Garni, home to the only standing Pagan temple in Armenia, built in the 1st century AD. This unique structure was dedicated to Mihr, the god of light and purity, showcasing Armenia's ancient pre-Christian beliefs. While the temple was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1679, it was meticulously restored in 1975, bringing back its classical Greco-Roman architectural style. Set atop a rocky hill with stunning views of the Azat River gorge, the Temple of Garni provides a fascinating insight into Armenia's pagan history and its preservation efforts.



### Geghard Monastery

We'll continue to the Monastery of Geghard, named after the legendary lance that pierced Christ's body and was kept here for centuries. Although the exact founding date of the monastery remains unknown, the current complex dates back to the mid-13th century. Built partially into the cliffs of a spectacular gorge, Geghard Monastery is a masterpiece of medieval Armenian architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage site, symbolizing both faith and artistry.



### Lunch at the House of Abelyan

Lunch at a local house, where we will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the making of the Armenian national bread, "lavash," and Jengyalov hats. Typically baked in an underground oven called "tonir," lavash was included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2015.



### Return to Yerevan



### Overnight in Yerevan

## Day 7: Departure

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### Breakfast



### Departure

Departure from Zvartnots International Airport



### Transfer to the airport

Say goodbye to Armenia!

## Information & Documents

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### Price Includes

- Accommodation in double rooms in hotels in Yerevan for 6 nights.
- English speaking guide
- All transfers
- All excursions and entrance fees to the monuments indicated in the program
- One bottle of water per person per day.
- Meals as per the program (half board): 4 lunches and 1 dinner
- Participation in the preparation of Lavash, Arishta, and Gata
- Map



### Price Excludes

- Travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Airplane tickets
- Unscheduled visits
- Meals not mentioned